

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A belt driving device comprising:  
plural rollers including a driving roller;  
a belt configured to be tensioned by said plural rollers, and to be driven by said driving roller;  
~~an absorbing member~~ a viscous damper arranged on a rotational axis of said driving roller and configured to absorb shock to said driving roller;  
wherein said driving roller is arranged adjacent to where an outside body contacts an outer surface of said belt.

Claim 2 (Original): A belt driving device according to claim 1; wherein said driving roller is arranged opposite said outside body across said belt.

Claim 3 (Original): A belt driving device according to claim 2; wherein said outside body is configured to contact to clean the outer surface of said belt.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A belt driving device according to claim 2; wherein said outside body is a roller.

Claim 5 (Original): A belt driving device according to claim 1; wherein said belt is configured to support toner images on its surface.

Claim 6 (Original): A belt driving device according to claim 1; wherein said belt is configured to convey a recording medium.

Claim 7 (Original): A belt driving device according to claim 6; wherein said outside body is composed of said recording medium; and said driving roller is arranged opposite where said recording medium starts to be conveyed on said belt.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A belt driving device according to claim 7; wherein a back-end of said recording medium is nipped by resist rollers when said recording medium starts to be conveyed on said belt.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A belt driving device according to claim 1; wherein a resonant frequency of said ~~absorbing member~~ viscous damper is different from a periodic frequency of vibration caused by contact between ~~[[that]]~~ said outside body ~~contacts~~ and the outer surface of said belt.

Claims 11-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:  
plural rollers including a driving roller;  
a belt configured to be tensioned by said plural rollers, and to be driven by said driving roller;

a driving shaft that links a viscous damper to an absorbing member arranged on a rotational axis of said driving roller, said viscous damper being [[and]] configured to absorb shock to said driving roller;

wherein said driving roller is arranged adjacent to where an outside body contacts an outer surface of said belt.

Claims 22-30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A belt driving device according to claim 1, further comprising: [[:]]

~~wherein said absorbing member includes~~ a flywheel that is arranged on the rotational axis of said driving roller, that is configured to absorb shock to said driving roller, and that is axially offset with respect to said ~~or a viscous damper.~~

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): An image forming device according to claim 21, further comprising: [[:]]

~~wherein said absorbing member includes~~ a flywheel that is linked to said driving shaft and that is configured to absorb shock to said driving roller ~~or a viscous damper.~~

Claim 33 (New): A belt driving device according to claim 1; wherein said viscous damper includes

a rotor contained in a casing, and

a shaft portion that links said rotor to said driving roller.

Claim 34 (New): A belt driving device according to claim 33; wherein said viscous damper includes an oil.

Claim 35 (New): A belt driving device according to claim 33; wherein said viscous damper includes a magnetism fluid.

Claim 36 (New): A belt driving device according to claim 33; wherein said viscous damper includes an electric generator configured to create a viscous load.

Claim 37 (New): A belt driving device according to claim 21; wherein said viscous damper includes

a rotor contained in a casing, and

a shaft portion that links said rotor to said driving roller.

Claim 38 (New): A belt driving device according to claim 37; wherein said viscous damper includes an oil.

Claim 39 (New): A belt driving device according to claim 37; wherein said viscous damper includes a magnetism fluid.

Claim 40 (New): A belt driving device according to claim 37; wherein said viscous damper includes an electric generator configured to create a viscous load.